

The Joy of Our Redemption

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Ny fifaliana noho ny fanavotana antsika

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Mpanolotsaina Faharoa ao amin'ny Fikambanana Ifanampiana maneran-tany

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Jesus Christ's love and power can save each of us from our mistakes, weaknesses, and sins and help us to become something more.

About 10 years ago I felt impressed to paint a portrait of the Savior. Though I am an artist, this felt a bit overwhelming. How was I to paint a portrait of Jesus Christ that captured His Spirit? Where was I to begin? And where would I find the time?

Even with my questions, I decided to move forward and trust that the Lord would help me. But I had to keep moving and leave the possibility to Him. I prayed, pondered, researched, and sketched and was blessed to find help and resources. And what was a white canvas started to become something more.

The process wasn't easy. Sometimes it didn't look as I had hoped. Sometimes there were moments of inspired strokes and ideas. And many times, I just had to try again and again and again.

When I thought the oil painting was finally complete and dry, I began to apply a transparent varnish to protect it from dirt and dust. As I did, I noticed the hair in the painting start to change, smear, and dissolve. I quickly realized that I had applied the varnish too soon, that part of the painting was still wet!

I had literally wiped away a portion of my painting with the varnish. Oh, how my heart

Ny fitiavan'i Jesoa Kristy sy ny heriny dia afaka mamonjy antsika tsirairay amin'ny fahadisoantsika, ny fahalementsika ary ny fahotantsika sy afaka manampy antsika ho tonga olona miavaka kokoa.

Folo taona lasa teo ho eo izay dia nisy nanosika ahy hanao sary hosodokon'ny Mpamonjy. Na dia mpahaikanto aza aho dia somary nanahirana izany. Ahoana no hanaovakony sarin'i Jesoa Kristy izay maneho ny fana-hiny? Aiza no hanombohako izany? Ary aiza no hahitako fotoana?

Na dia teo aza ireo fanontaniako ireo dia nanapa-kevitra ny handroso aho ary natoky fa hanampy ahy ny Tompo. Saingy nila nandroso hatrany aho sy nametraka teo Aminy ireozavatra azo atao. Nivavaka aho, nisaintsaina, nikaroka sy nanao sary ary voatahy tamin'ny fahitana fanampiana sy loharanom-pitaovana. Ary nanomboka ho lasa zavatra hafa kokoa ilay fitaovana fanaovana sary hosodoko niloko fotsy.

Tsy mora ilay dingana narahina. Indraindray tsy araka ilay nantenaiko izany. Indraindray nisy fotoana nisehoan'ny diam-borosin-doko sy hevitra tena tsara. Imbetsaka koa anefa aho no nila namerimberina nanandrana tsotra izao.

Raha nihevitra aho fa vita sy maina tanteraka ilay peinture à l'huile dia nanomboka nanisy vernis transparent aho hiarovana izany amin'ny loto sy ny vovoka. Rehefa nanao izany aho dia nahatsikaritra fa nanomboka niova sy nitsonika ary levona ilay volo teo amin'ilay sary hosodoko. Tonga dia takatro hoe aloha loatra ny nanosorako ilay vernis nefa mbola nisy lena ny ampahany tamin'ilay sary hosodoko.

Voafafako tanteraka tamin'ilay vernis ny ampahany tamin'ilay sary hosodoko nataoko.

sank. I felt as though I had just destroyed what God had helped me to do. I cried and felt sick inside. In despair, I did what anyone would typically do in a situation like this: I called my mother. She wisely and calmly said, “You won’t get back what you had, but do the very best you can with what you’ve got.”

And I Partook, by Kristin M. Yee

So I prayed and pled for help and painted through the night to repair things. And I remember looking at the painting in the morning—it looked better than it did before. How was that possible? What I thought was a mistake without mend was an opportunity for His merciful hand to be manifest. He was not done with the painting, and He was not done with me. What joy and relief filled my heart. I praised the Lord for His mercy, for this miracle that not only saved the painting but taught me more about His love and power to save each of us from our mistakes, weaknesses, and sins and to help us become something more.

Just as the depth of my gratitude for the Savior grew as He mercifully helped me to repair the “unrepairable” painting, so has my personal love and gratitude for my Savior intensified as I’ve sought to work with Him on my weaknesses and to be forgiven of my mistakes. I will forever be grateful to my Savior that I can change and be cleansed. He has my heart, and I hope to do whatever He would have me do and become.

Repenting allows us to feel God’s love and to know and love Him in ways we would never otherwise know. Of the woman who anointed the Savior’s feet, He said, “Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.” She loved Jesus much, for He had forgiven her much.

Tena nalahelo ny foko. Nahatsapa ho toy ireny nanimba ny zavatra nanampian’ Andriamanitra ahy mba hataoko ireny aho. Nitomany aho ary narary ny aiko. Tao anatin’ny fahakiviana dia nanao izay mety ho nataon’ny olona mahazatra tao anatin’ny toe-javatra toy izany aho: niantso ny reniko aho. Niteny tamim-pahendrena sy tamim-pitoniana izy hoe, “tsy hiverina aminao intsony ilay zavatra nanananao, fa ataovy izay tsara indrindra azonao atao eo anatrehan’ny zavatra eo am-pelatananao.

And I Partook [Dia nandray aho], nataon’i Kristin Yee

Noho izany dia nivavaka sy nangataka fanampiana aho, ary nandoko nandritra ny alina mba hanarenana ny zavatra tsy nety. Ary tsaroako aho nijery ilay sary hosodoko ny ampitson’izany ka tena tsara noho ilay vitako teo aloha izany. Ahoana no nahatanterahan’izany? Ilay noheveriko ho fahadisoana tsy azo narenina dia lasa fahafahana iray nisehoan’ily tanany feno famindram-po. Tsy mbola tapitra ny fanaovany ilay sary hosodoko ary tsy mbola tapitra ny zavatra tiany hatao amiko. Tena feno fifaliana sy fahamaivanana ny foko. Nidera ny Tompo noho ny famindram-pony aho, noho izany fahagagana izany izay tsy namonjy ilay sary hosodoko fotsiny fa nampianatra ahy bebe kokoa momba ny fitiavany sy ny hery ananany mba hamonjena ny tsirairay avy amin-tsika amin’ny fahadisoantsika, ny fahalementsika, ary ny fahotantsika sy mba hanampiana antsika ho tonga olona miavaka kokoa.

Rehefa nitombo ny halehiben’ny fankasitrahako ny Mpamonjy noho ny nanampiany ahy tamim-pamindram-po hanarina ny “tsy azo amboarina” teo amin’ily sary hosodoko, dia nitombo koa ilay fitiavako manokana ny Mpamonjy sy ny fankasitrahako Azy rehefa nikatsaka ny hiarahiasa Aminy aho mba handresy ny fahalemeno sy mba ho voavela amin’ireo fahadisoako. Ho feno fankasitrahana mandrakizay ny Mpamonjy aho satria afaka miovaary afaka ny ho voadio. Eo am-pelatanany ny foko ary manantena ny hanao izay zavatra tiany hataoko sy tiany hahatongavako aho.

Ny fibebahana dia manome fahafahana antsika hahatsapa ny fitiavan’ Andriamanitra sy hahafantatra Azy ary hitia Azy amin’ny fomba izay tsy ho fantatsika mihitsy raha tamin’ny fomba hafa. Hoy ny Mpamonjy mikasika an’ily vehivavy nanosotra diloilo ny tongony: “Voavela ny helony be, fa be fitiavana izy; fa izay voavela tamin’ny

There is such relief and hope in knowing that we can try again—that, as Elder David A. Bednar taught, we can receive an ongoing remission of our sins through the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost as we truly and sincerely repent.

The redeeming power of Jesus Christ is one of the greatest promised blessings of our covenants. Ponder this as you participate in sacred ordinances. Without it, we could not return home to the presence of our Father in Heaven and those we love.

I know that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is mighty to save. As the Son of God, who atoned for the sins of the world and laid down His own life and took it up again, He holds the power of redemption and resurrection. He has made possible immortality for all and eternal life for those who choose Him. I know that through His atoning sacrifice, we can repent and truly be cleansed and redeemed. It is a miracle He loves you and me in this way.

He has said, “Will ye not now return unto me, and repent of your sins, and be converted, that I may heal you?” He can heal the “waste places” of your soul—the places made dry, harsh, and desolate by sin and sorrow—and “make [your] wilderness like Eden.”

Just as we cannot comprehend the agony and depth of Christ’s suffering in Gethsemane and on the cross, so we “cannot measure the bounds nor fathom the depths of [His] divine forgiveness,” mercy, and love.

You may feel at times that it’s not possible to be redeemed, that perhaps you are an exception to God’s love and the Savior’s atoning power because of what you are struggling with or because of what you’ve done. But I testify that you are not beneath the Master’s reach. The Savior “descended below all things” and is in a divine position to lift you and claim you from the darkest abyss and bring you into “his marvellous light.” Through

kely dia kely fitiavana.” Tena tia an’i Jesoa izy satria tena namela tokoa ny helony izy.

Misy fahamaivanana sy fanantenana toy iza-ny ao amin’ny fahafantarana faafakamanandrana indray isika, ka araka ny nampianarin’ny Loholona David A. Bednar, dia afaka mandray tsy tapaka ny famelana ny fahotantsika isika amin’ny alalan’ny hery manamasin’ny Fanahy Masina rehefa mibebaka marina amin-kitsimpo.

Ny hery manavotra ananan’i Jesoa Kristy dia iray amin’ireo fitahiana lehibe indrindra avy amin’ny fanekempihavanana nataontsika. Saint-saino ny momba izany rehefa mandray anjara amin’ireo ôrdônansy masina ianareo. Raha tsy misy an’izany dia tsy afaka miverina mody eo anatrehan’ny Raintsika any An-danitra sy ireo olona tiantsika isika.

Fantatro fa i Jesoa Kristy Tompontsika sy Mpamonjy antsika dia mahery ka mahavonjy. Amin’ny maha-Zanak’ Andriamanitra Azy izay nanonitra ny fahotan’izao tontolo izao sy nanolotrany ainy ary nandray izany indray dia miha-zona ny herin’ny fanavotana sy ny fitsanganana amin’ny maty Izy. Nanao izay nahatanterahan’ny tsy fahafatesana ho an’ny rehetra sy ny fiainana mandrakizay ho an’izay misafidy Azy Izy. Fantatro fa amin’ny alalan’ny sorompanavotany dia afaka mibebaka sy afaka ny ho voadio sy ho voavonjy tokoa isika. Fahagagana ny fitiavany ahy sy ianao amin’izany fomba izany.

Nilaza Izy hoe: “Tsy mba te hiverina Amiko va ianareo sy hibe-baka amin’ny fahotanareo, ary hiova fo hahazoako manasitrana anareo?” Afaka manarinany “rava rehetra” ao amin’ny fanahinao Izy, ny toerana maina, maraorao, karankaina noho ny fahotana sy ny alahelo ka “manao ny efitra [ao] ho tahaka an’i Edena.”

Toy ny tsy fahatakarantsika ny fangirifiriana sy ny halalin’ny fijalian’i Kristy tao Getsemane sy teo amin’ny hazofijaliana, no “tsy ahafahantsika mandrefy ny fetra na maka sary an-tsaina ny halalin’ny famelan-kelony masina,” sy ny famindram-pony ary ny fitiavany.

Mety mahatsapa ianao indraindray fa angamba tsy afaka ny hahazo anjara amin’ny fitiavan’ Andriamanitra na ny herin’ny sorompanavotan’ny Mpamonjy noho ny zava-manahirana anao na noho ny zavatra nataonao. Saingy mijoro ho vavolombelona aho fa afaka ny hanakatra anao foana ny Mpampianatra. “Nidina [ho] ambanin’ny zava-drehetra” ny Mpamonjy ary mitana anjara toerana masina ahafahana manainga anao

His sufferings, He has made a way for each of us to overcome our personal weaknesses and sins. “He has all power to save every man that believeth on his name and bringeth forth fruit meet for repentance.”

Just as it required work and pleading for heaven's help to repair the painting, it takes work, sincerity of heart, and humility to bring “forth fruit meet for repentance.” These fruits include exercising our faith and trust in Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice, offering to God a broken heart and a contrite spirit, confessing and forsaking sin, restoring that which has been damaged to the best of our ability, and striving to live righteously.

To truly repent and change, we must first be “convinced of our sins.” A person does not see the need to take medicine unless they understand that they are ill. There may be times we may not be willing to look inside ourselves and see that which really needs healing and repair.

In C. S. Lewis's writings, Aslan poses these words to a man who has entangled himself in his own devices: “Oh [humankind], how cleverly you defend yourselves [from] all that might do you good!”

Where might you and I be defending ourselves from those things that might do us good?

Let us not defend ourselves from the good that God desires to bless us with. From the love and mercy that He desires us to feel. From the light and knowledge He desires to bestow upon us. From the healing that He knows we so readily need. From the deeper covenant relationship He intends for all His sons and daughters.

I pray we may lay aside any “weapons of war” that we've consciously or even unconsciously taken up to defend ourselves from the blessings of God's love. Weapons of pride, selfishness, fear, hate, offense, complacency, unrighteous judgment, jealousies—anything that would keep us from loving God with all our hearts and keeping all our covenants with Him.

sy mampiakatra anao avy ao amin'ny hantsambe faran'izay maizina mba hitondra anao eo amin'ny “fahazavany mahagaga.” Tamin'ny alalan'ny fijaliany dia nanao lalana ho antsika tsirairay Izy mba handresentsika ny fahalementsika manokana sy ny fahotantsika. “Manana ny heryrehetrahamon-jena ny olonatsirairayizay mino ny anarany sy mamoa voa miendrika fibebahana Izy.”

Toy ny fanarenana ilay hosodoko izay nitaky asa sy fitalahoana ny fanampian'ny lanitra, dia mitaky asa sy fahatsoram-po ary fanetrentena vao afaka mamoa “voa miendrika fibebahana.” Ireo voa ireo dia ahitana ny fampiharana finonana sy fahatokiana an'i Jesoa Kristy sy ny sorompanavotany, manolotra fo torotoro sy fanahy manenina amin' Andriamanitra, mibaboka sy mamoy ny fahotana, mamerina amin'ny laoniny araka izay azontsika atao ny zavatra rava, ary miezaka miaina amim-pahamarinana.

Mba hibebehana marina sy hiovana dia tsy maintsy “[resy lahatra] ny amin'ny fahotantsika isika” aloha. Tsy ho hitan'ny olona iray ny hoe mila mihinana fanafody izy raha tsy takany fa marary izy. Mety misy fotoana tsy te hijery ny ao anatintsika isika sy tsy te hahita ny zavatra tena ilaina fanasitranana sy fanamboarana.

Tao anatin'ny asa soratr'i C. S. Lewis, dia nanambara ireto teny ireto tamin'ny lehilahy iray izay voafandriky ny heviny manokana i Aslan hoe: “[Raolombelona] ô! Tena kinga ianareo manakana ny tenanareo tsy hisitraka ny zavatra rehetra mety hahasoa anareo.”

Rehefa inona izaho sy ianao no mety hanakana ny tenantsika tsy hisitraka ireo zavatra mety hahasoa antsika?

Aoka isika tsy hanakana ny tenantsika tsy hisitraka ny soa izay irin' Andriamanitra home-na antsika. Ny fitiavana sy ny famindram-po izay iriny ho tsapatsika. Ny fahazavana sy ny fahalalana iriny harotsaka amintsika. Ny fanasitranana izay fantany fa tena ilaintsika. Ny fifandraisana ara-panekehempihavanana izay kasainy ho an'ny zanany lahy sy ny zanany vavy rehetra.

Mivavaka aho mba hametrahantsika izay mety ho “fiadian'ny fikomiana” izay nampiasaintsika tamim-pahatsiarovan-tena na nampiasaintsika tsy nahy mba hanakanana ny tenantsika tsy hisitraka ireo fitahian'ny fitiavan' Andriamanitra. Ny fiadian'ny avonavona, ny fitiavan-tena, ny tahotra, ny fankahalana, ny faniratsirana, ny baranahiny, ny fitsaratsarana tsy ara-drariny, ny fialonana—ary ny zavatra izay manakana antsika

As we live our covenants, the Lord can give us the help and power we need to both recognize and overcome our weaknesses, including the spiritual parasite of pride. Our prophet has said:

“Repentance is the pathway to purity, and purity brings power.”

“And oh, how we will need His power in the days ahead.”

Like my painting, the Lord is not done with us when we make a mistake, nor does He flee when we falter. Our need for healing and help is not a burden to Him, but the very reason He came. The Savior Himself said:

“Behold, I have come unto the world to bring redemption unto the world, to save the world from sin.”

“Mine arm of mercy is extended towards you, and whosoever will come, him will I receive; and blessed are those who come unto me.”

So come—come ye that are weary, worn, and sad; come and leave your labors and find rest in Him who loves you most. Take His yoke upon you, for He is gentle and lowly in heart.

Our Heavenly Father and Savior see you. They know your heart. They care about what you care about, including those you love.

The Savior can redeem that which was lost, including broken and fractured relationships. He has made a way for all that is fallen to be redeemed—to breathe life into that which feels dead and hopeless.

If you are struggling with a situation you think you should have overcome by now, don't give up. Be patient with yourself, keep your covenants, repent often, seek the help of your leaders if needed, and go to the house of the Lord as regularly as you can. Listen for and heed the

tsy hitia an' Andriamanitra amin'ny fontsikarehetrasy tsy hitandrina ireo fanekempihavanana-arehetranataontsika Taminy.

Rehefa miaina ireo fanekempihavanana nataontsika isika, dia afaka manome antsika ny fanampiana sy ny hery ilaintsika hamantaranasy handresena ny fahalementsika ny Tompo, ka ao anatin'izany ilay bibikely manimba ny ara-panahy dia ny avonavona. Nilaza ny mpaminanintsika hoe:

“Ny fibebahana no lalana mitondra any amin'ny fahadiovana ary ny fahadiovana dia mitondra hery.”

“Ary tena hilaintsika tokoa ny heriny amin'ireo andro ho avy.”

Toy ilay tamin'ny sary hosodokoko, ny Tompo dia tsy mandao antsika rehefa manao fahadisoana isika ary tsy mandositra Izy rehefa mihozongozona isika. Ny filantsika fanasitranana sy fanampiana dia tsy enta-mavesatra ho Azy fa izany no tena antony nahantongavany. Hoy ny Mpamonjy hoe:

“Indro, efa tonga teo amin'izao tontolo izao Aho mba hitondra ny fanavotana ho an'izao tontolo izao, mba hamonjy izao tontolo izao amin'ny fahotana.”

“Indro, ny sandrin'ny famindram-poko dia mitsotra aminareo, ary na zovy na zovy no ho avy, dia izy no horaisiko; ary [hotahina] ireo izay mankaty Amiko.”

Noho izany avia, avia ianao izay reraka, trotraka ary malahelo, avia ary avelao ny asa mafinao ary mahazoa fitsaharana ao Aminy izay tena tia anao. Ento ny ziogany; fa malemy fanahy sady tsy miavona am-po Izy.

Mahita anao ny Raintsika any An-danitra sy ny Mpamonjy antsika. Fantany ny ao am-ponao. Miraharaha ny zavatra izay raharahainao Izy ireo, ka tafiditra ao anatin'izany ireo olona akaikin'ny fonao.

Afaka manavotra izay nafoy ny Mpamonjy, tafiditra ao anatin'izany ny fifandraisana simba na mikorontana. Nanamboatra lalana ho an'ireo rehetra lavo Izy mba ho voavotra sy mba ho velona ao anatina fiainana izay toy ny efa maty sy tsy nisy fanantenana.

Raha toa ianao ka sahirana eo anatrehan'ny toe-javatra iray izay heverinao fa tokony ho efa mba nilamina raha amin'izao fotoana izao, dia aza milavo lefona. Manàna faharetana amin'ny tenanao, hajao ny fanekempihavanana nataonao, mibebaha matetika, mitadiava fanampiana avy

promptings He sends you. He will not abandon His covenant relationship with you.

There have been difficult and complex relationships in my life that I have struggled with and sincerely sought to improve. At times I felt like I was failing more often than not. I wondered, “Did I not fix things the last time? Did I not truly overcome my weakness?” I’ve learned over time that I am not necessarily defective; rather, there is often more to work on and more healing that is needed.

Elder D. Todd Christofferson taught: “Surely the Lord smiles upon one who desires to come to judgment worthily, who resolutely labors day by day to replace weakness with strength. Real repentance, real change may require repeated attempts, but there is something refining and holy in such striving. Divine forgiveness and healing flow quite naturally to such a soul.”

Each day is a new day filled with hope and possibilities because of Jesus Christ. Each day you and I can come to know, as Mother Eve proclaimed, “the joy of our redemption,” the joy of being made whole, the joy of feeling God’s unfailing love for you.

I know that our Father in Heaven and Savior love you. Jesus Christ is the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind. He lives. Through His atoning sacrifice, the bands of sin and death were forever broken so that we might be free to choose healing, redemption, and eternal life with those we love. And I testify of these things in His name, Jesus Christ, amen.

amin’ny mpitarika anao raha ilaina izany ary mandehana tsy tapaka any amin’ny tranon’ny Tompo araka izay azonao atao. Henoy sy araho ireo bitsika alefany aminao. Tsy hiala amin’ny fifandraisana ara-panekempihavanana nataony taminao Izy.

Nisy fifandraisana sarotra izay nanahirana ahy teo amin’ny fiainako ary nikatsaka tamin-kit-simpo ny hanatsara izany aho. Indraindray dia tsapako ho toy ny tsy fahombiazana no maro kokoa noho ny fahombiazana. Nanontany tena aho hoe, “tsy nisy zavatra nalamiko ve tamin’ny farany teo? Tena tsy resiko ve ny fahalemeko?” Nianatra aho rehefa nandeha ny fotoana fa tsy voatery ny tenako no manan-tsiny, fa matetika misy asa bebe kokoa tokony hatao sy fanasitranana bebe kokoa ilaina.

Nampianatra ny Loholona D. Todd Christofferson hoe: “Tena azo antoka fa hitahy ilay olona izay maniry ny hijoro manoloana ny fitsarana amim-pahamendrehana ny Tompo. Olona izay niasa mafy isan’andro isan’andro mba hanova ny fahalemena ho tanjaka. Mety mitaky andrana miverimberina ny fibebahana sy ny fiovana marina, kanefa misy zavatra manadio sy manamasina ao anatin’ny fiezahana toy izany. Mirotsaka ho azy amin’ny fanahy toy izany ny famelan-keloka sy ny fanasitranana avy any an-danitra.”

Ny andro tsirairay dia andro vaovao feno fanantenana sy fahafahana manao zavatra azo araraotina noho i Jesoa Kristy. Isan’andro izaho sy ianao dia afaka ny hahafantatra, ilay nambaran’i Eva Renintsika hoe, “ny fifaliana noho ny fanavotana antsika,” ilay fifaliana noho ny fahasitranana, ilay fifaliana noho ny fahatsapana ilay fitiavan’ny Ray anao izay tsy mety lefy.

Fantatro fa tia anareo ny Ray any An-danitra sy ny Mpamonjy. I Jesoa Kristy no Mpamonjy sy Mpanavotra ny olon-drehetra. Velona Izy. Tamin’ny alalan’ny sorona fanavotana nataony, ny fatotry ny ota sy fahafatesana dia ravaman-drakizaykamalalakaisika ny hisafidy ny fahasitranana, fanavotana, ary fiainana mandrakizay miaraka amin’ireo olon-tiantsika. Ary mijoro ho vavolombelona ny amin’ireo zavatra ireo aho amin’ny anaran’i Jesoa Kristy, amena.